

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00 STR-05 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OPR-02 AGRE-00

AF-10 HEW-04 /062 W

-----012163 010600Z /17

R 301829Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3423

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 17395

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR APHIS

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

ROME PASS MOULTHROP

GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11662: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: ANIMAL HEALTH--EC ACTIONS ON POTENTIAL SWINE FEVER

OUTBREAK

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 8582, (B) BONN 19600

1. ON NOVEMBER 9, 1977, A COMMISSION DECISION (77/717/EEC) WAS MADE BANNING ALL IMPORTS OF LIVE PIGS AND FRESH PIGMEAT FROM THE SOVIET UNION. A COMMISSION SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE DECISION WAS BASED LARGELY ON UNVERIFIED
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REPORTS THAT AFRICAN SWINE FEVER HAD BROKEN OUT IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE SOVIET UNION NEAR THE ROMANIAN BORDER. REPORTS OF RESTRICTED PERSONNEL MOVEMENT IN THIS AREA ALSO ADDED TO THE SUSPICION ACCORDING TO COMMISSION SOURCE.

2. AN EC TEAM OF VETERINARIANS HAS RECENTLY RETURNED

FROM AN INSPECTION TOUR OF ROMANIAN ANIMAL HEALTH INSPECTION FACILITIES TO DETERMINE IF ADEQUATE PREVENTIVE MEASURES HAD BEEN EXERCISED BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WITH REGARD TO SWINE IMPORTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. COMMISSION SOURCE SAID THAT THE TEAM FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF SWINE FEVER IN THE AREAS VISITED NOR ANY EVIDENCE THAT INSPECTION MEASURES HAD BEEN INADEQUATELY CARRIED OUT BY ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT DUE TO THE TIGHTLY REGULATED NATURE OF THEIR TOUR, THE TEAM WAS NOT SATISFIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN THE COMPLETE PICTURE. WHILE A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES HAVE RESERVATIONS CONCERNING CONTINUED IMPORTATION OF PORK FROM ROMANIA, ONLY THE FRG HAS TAKEN UNILATERAL ACTION TO BAN SUCH IMPORTS (REFS. A AND B). THE COMMISSION IS NOT CURRENTLY AWARE OF ANY ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT THE GERMANS MIGHT HAVE TO SUPPORT THEIR ACTION; HOWEVER, GERMAN AUTHORITIES HAVE PROMISED TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH ADDITIONAL DATA.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE NEXT STEP FOR THE EC RE PORK IMPORTS FROM ROMANIA IS FOR SOME DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE NINE MEMBER STATES WITHIN THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MATTERS. HE EXPECTED A MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS WILL APPARENTLY INVOLVE, INTER ALIA, AN ADDITIONAL MEETING WITH ROMANIAN HEALTH AUTHORITIES (IN BRUSSELS)
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AND A REEXAMINATION OF ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE. SOURCE INDICATED THAT WHILE WHOLE ISSUE IS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE AIR, SOME CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SPECIFYING ONLY CERTAIN AREAS IN ROMANIA (I.E., SPECIFIED DISTANCE FROM SOVIET BORDER) AS ACCEPTABLE FOR THE EXPORT OF PORK TO THE EC.

4. COMMISSION OFFICIAL HAS PROMISED TO KEEP U.S. MISSION INFORMED REGARDING ANY POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF SWINE FEVER IN SUSPECT AREA. MORRIS

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